United Nations SSC/16/L.3

South-South cooperation for development

Distr.: Limited
24 December 2009

Original: English

High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation
Sixteenth session
New York, 4 February 2010

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Note by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 64/1, decided to postpone the sixteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation that had been scheduled for 2 to 5 June 2009 to a convenient date in January 2010. In its resolution 64/221, the Assembly decided to hold the sixteenth session of the Committee on 4 February 2010, to be preceded by an organizational meeting on 21 January 2010.

Format and working procedures

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/205, endorsed the report of the High-level Committee on its tenth session (A/52/39) and its decision 10/1 A, in which the Committee, inter alia, recommended a new format and working methods in order to make the debate of the Committee more interactive and to enable a more concrete outcome of its deliberations. The sixteenth session of the Committee will follow the format and working methods introduced at the eleventh session of the Committee, held in May 1999, which comprise, inter alia, the following:

(a) A half-day organizational meeting will be held to elect the Bureau of the Committee and adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work;

(b) The duration of the general debate on item 2 of the provisional agenda of the sixteenth session of the Committee (SSC/16/L.2) will be limited to two plenary meetings. More specifically:

(i) A list of speakers will be opened at the headquarters of the United Nations Development Programme, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (fax: 212 906 6429 or 212 906 6352; tel.: 212 906 5727; e-mail: southsouth@undp.org), on Monday, 11 January 2010, and closed at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 3 February 2010;

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(ii) In accordance with the new working methods of the Committee, statements in the general debate will be limited to 8 minutes for representatives of Member States and 6 minutes for other participants;

(iii) In order to save time, several States or groups of States sharing common positions may wish to consider presenting joint statements. Delegations wishing to have statements circulated to all participants are requested to provide 300 copies to the secretariat, which will arrange for their circulation in the language or languages received;

(c) In order to make the debate interactive, the President will, from time to time, request the Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to respond, as appropriate, to observations and suggestions made by delegations during the debate and thereafter invite comments from the floor, either on the Director's response or on the issues raised in the statements of respective delegations;

(d) In conformity with the arrangements set out above, the general debate will be conducted in plenary meetings during the morning and afternoon of 4 February 2010;

(e) In accordance with the views and suggestions expressed during the debate, the Working Group will meet during the afternoon of 4 February to elaborate draft decisions and recommendations.

Draft programme of work

3. The annex to the present note contains a draft programme of work for the session.

4. The sixteenth session will be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In view of the limited time and services at the Committee's disposal, it is important that both meetings start promptly at the scheduled time. In an effort to make the best use of all services and in line with the practice of the General Assembly and other bodies, it is also suggested that, for the current session, the Committee waive the part of rule 16 of its rules of procedure (TCDC/2/Rev.1) that stipulates that the President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed only when representatives of at least one third of the States participating are present.

5. Rule 10 of the Committee's rules of procedure stipulates that its officers are the President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. The Working Group may wish to follow the practice of previous sessions whereby the Vice-President presiding over the Working Group would serve as both Chairman and Rapporteur. Based on previous practice and taking into account General Assembly decision 33/417 on the organization of the work of United Nations bodies, it is important for the regional groups to start consultations on the nomination of candidates to fill those elective posts well in advance of the organizational meeting, with a view to agreeing on a slate of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled, thus allowing all officers of the Committee to be elected by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement for secret balloting.

Annex

Draft programme of work

Plenary meetings

Thursday *4 February 2010*	
a.m.	*p.m.*
Opening of the session (item 1) General debate on review of follow-up action on the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (item 2)	Item 2 continued, followed by items 3, 4, 5 and 6